

OLHC Crusader Chronicle

January 2012

Principal's Notes

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. On behalf of all of the teachers and staff at OLHC, I wish to thank you for your very generous gifts at Christmas and for all you do every day to help us make our school the best it can be.

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Pageant and concert. The students and faculty all worked hard on their performances. A special thank you to Mrs. Feilke, and the eighth grade for their presentation of the Nativity. Also, a big thank you to Mr. Ruzzi and Mr. Force for their work with the choir and band.

The second half of our school year starts on January 3rd and we have a lot happening.

Gym Update

Hopefully, many of you have seen the completed gym repairs. The floor looks great and repairs were completed on schedule. We are pleased that the disruption was relatively minor and our basketball season is back in full swing.

Volunteers

All parents currently volunteering or interested in volunteering will need to complete an *Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification Form* annually. The details can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.

Flyers Assembly

Even though the Winter Classic is over, the hockey fun continues! We will have a Flyers hockey assembly on January 11th for grades Kindergarten to 6th in the Church Hall. The assembly will focus on sportsmanship, the importance of being a team player and offer some fun games and prizes.

Neumann Scholarship

On January 21, 2012 several of our eighth grade students will take the Neumann Scholarship Test. The Neumann Scholarship grants full tuition for four years to a student attending an Archdiocesan High School. Students must receive an invitation to sit for the Scholarship Test based on their academic qualifications. We know our students are well prepared and we wish them good luck.

Future Cities

Our Future Cities team will begin the official defense of their National Title on January 28, 2012 at Penn's Landing. The computer model is complete, the essay is submitted and this is the last step in round one. We know the team will be ready and the model already looks great and very interesting. Good luck to the entire team especially the presenters, Joel Hediger, Rebecca Reilly and Meredith Moore.

Blue Ribbon Commission

Finally, and most importantly, the report from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Catholic Schools in Philadelphia will be released on January 6, 2012. The report will be presented to pastors and principals at a closed meeting at Neumann College. Immediately following the closed meeting, I will hold a faculty meeting on January 6th to inform the teachers of the findings. At the same time, I will send a school reach message to all families to inform them of the report findings. If Our Lady Help of Christians is affected by the report, I will attend a meeting on January 10th for all schools impacted and then hold a parent meeting on January 11th to discuss the changes. I am very hopeful that the results for our school will be positive and will allow us to be here for years to come.

Thank you for all you do!

Mr. Jack Bellantoni

Weather Delay Information

It is that time of year again when weather conditions may impact school openings and closings. Here are OLHC's procedures:

OLHC follows the decision of Abington School District. Please listen to KYW 1060 Radio for these numbers: **Abington #301 – OLHC #410**

In addition, you will be notified by email and phone through the School Reach System. The information will also be available on the Abington Cable Channel and the school website page.

PRESCHOOL (3 year olds and PreK): Please note if school has a one hour delay, then you will report one hour late to school. If there is a two hour delay, then there will be **no** preschool that day.

Mark Your Calendars:

JANUARY

3rd – Classes resume

6th – Blue Ribbon Commission

Findings Announced

11th – K-6 FLYERS Assembly 1:30PM

13th – 8th Grade Advanced Math

Trip to Kitchen Bar

16th – Martin Luther King Day;

School Holiday

19th – High School Universal

Visitation Day (8th Only)

21st – Neumann Scholars Test (8th)

23rd – March for Life

26th – No school for Preschool;

Preschool Conferences;

Penance/ Eucharist Parent Mtg 7PM

27th – No school for Preschool;

Preschool Conferences;

Second Trimester Progress Reports

28th – Future Cities Competition;

H&S Super Bowl Social

29th – Catholic Schools Week;

Open House 11:30AM-1PM

31st – Full Day of School;

H&S Skating Party



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Home and School Happenings

Happy New Year Everyone!

We hope you enjoyed your time with your families. What a great time of year to thank the good Lord for all of our blessings! To recap our holiday festivities at OLHC, here are the highlights:

The **Movie Matinee** was a huge success. The children came prepared to relax and enjoy The Polar Express with their friends, and a great time was had by everyone. We hope it gave you a chance to get things done for the holidays. Thanks to Sharon Waropay who organized the event, with the help of Trish DiSandro, and all our parent volunteers. The kids really had a great time hanging out with friends. You did an amazing job putting this first-time event together! Thank you!

Secret Santa Shoppe was a huge success and the children were able to get their shopping done. Thank you to Nancy Tait and her helpers, for coordinating this for the children. Also, thanks to Mr. Bellantoni and the faculty for allowing us to hold this during the school day. We hope it didn't disrupt your teaching schedule too much. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Make and Take followed the Secret Santa Shoppe on Friday, December 9th. It was a great way to end the week, and the children were filled with holiday spirit. Thanks to Kathy Lawler and the parents who volunteered to make this a memorable gathering. The kids were extremely well behaved and enjoyed the day.

Scrip News

We are pleased to announce that the Scrip Program had "record sales" in December! More and more families are saving on tuition by purchasing scrip. In addition to buying scrip from our inventory, we are happy to report that new families are also using the Online Service where they can choose from a thousand various retailers!

In addition to this exciting news, we want to let you know that you will soon see some of our Scrip information on the OLHC School Website. We would like it to provide the essential details including hours of operation, inventory in stock, order forms, and the link for making purchases online

For more information regarding the Scrip Program, please contact Lisa Motz at cl.motz@comcast.net.

The **Super Bowl Social** is scheduled for **January 28th**. Mark your calendar and come out to spend some time relaxing with friends. Again, this is going to be a really fun night with lots to do. Thanks to Melissa Feilke, Pam McAfee and all who are volunteering to make this another successful event at OLHC. Details will be coming out shortly.

The **Skating Party** is scheduled for **January 31st**. It's a great time for the children to relax and enjoy time with their friends! Details to come.

The **Father/Daughter Dance** was originally scheduled for February 18th, but has been moved to **February 25th**. Denise Albright and Karen Wanders are working hard to make this a special night!

We need your help with the Snack Stand during the Basketball season. If you are able to donate even a little of your time, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Denise Albright at denisealbright@hotmail.com**.

As always, we want to thank all the parents for your continued support of the Home & School efforts. We wouldn't be successful without your participation, and appreciate all you do for OLHC.

Lisa McLaughlin, Pres., H&S

CYO Update

Basketball season has started! Our teams have started to practice and a few have had their first games. Here are some early results with much more to come next month!

Girls 7/8th Varsity: 1-2. The team took 1st Place in the Ancillae-Assumpta Tournament!

Girls 5/6th Parish: 0-3. The team has been playing hard with a close loss in overtime in their last game.

Boys 5/6th Varsity: 0-2. The team had a great time playing in the St. Albert the Great Christmas Tournament.

Boys 5/6th Parish: 0-2. The team is looking forward to their next game.

Sports Contributors: Ashley McAfee, Angelina Reilly, Timothy Kennedy and Dan DiCriscio.

Contributors are needed for the Boys 7/8th grade teams, Girls 5/6th Varsity team and 3/4th grade teams. Please contact Katie Romano at kateromano@comcast.net for more information.

Father/Daughter Dance Pictures needed ASAP!

The dance will be on February 25th. One fun part of the dance will be the special pictures of each girl attending used as decorations. The pictures of the girls should show them doing different school activities or at extracurricular events. Please help ensure that every girl has at least one picture posted at the dance. The girls will be able to collect their pictures at the end of the dance. Please do not send original pictures, copies only! **Please send the copies in a sealed envelope with your child's last name to the Attn: Denise Albright or Karen Wanders. Pictures can be emailed to denisealbright@hotmail.com or wandersfamily@verizon.net.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

- ◆ **January 29th:** 10:30AM Mass and Open House
- ◆ **January 30th:** Dance Party
- ◆ **January 31st:** Teacher Appreciation Day and H&S Skating Party (all grades)
- ◆ **February 2nd:** Student Appreciation Day
- ◆ **February 3rd:** First Friday Mass

VOLUNTEER NOTICE

All employees and volunteers who have regular contact with children are required to renew their background checks every five years. **During the interim years, employees and volunteers are now required to complete and submit the Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification Form.**

This new policy has been instituted as a result of the PA Omnibus School Code Act 2011-24. The law has added 6 offenses to the list of enumerated offenses, which disqualify an individual from being employed and volunteering in programs within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

You can access the Arrest/Conviction Report Form on the Archdiocesan website (www.archphila.org). Click the "Safe Environment" link on the lower right hand menu, and once on the Office for Child and Youth Protection web page, click "Safe Environment" again. Please send the completed form to Donna at the rectory before March 1, 2012.

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Special Events Gallery

Here is a sampling of pictures from the many special events that took place at school in December. Click on the following links to view the slideshow for the [Nativity](#), [Christmas Pageant](#) and [Morris Arboretum Class Trip](#) which can all be found on the school website.



Little angels from PreK at the Christmas Pageant.



Our Kindergarten class worked with the 7th grade Advanced Math students to build Gingerbread houses.



The 2nd grade proudly displayed their Christmas crafts.



The 1st Grade celebrated St. Nicholas Day.



The 3rd grade enjoyed a Christmas pancake breakfast prepared by Mr. Greenberg.



The OLHC First Lego League Team (students in grades 4-6) participated in their first competition.

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Special Events Gallery



The 5th grade class sang "Angels We Have Heard on High" during the school Christmas Pageant.



The 6th grade class, with Sgt. Joseph Ring USMC, picking up the toys collected for the Toys for Tots drive.



8th grade Advanced Math students met with the 1st grade to create gingerbread men "glyphs".



Students worked on a school wide service project making crafts for St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.



The 8th grade class reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas with their performance of the Nativity.



The OLHC faculty and staff enjoyed a well-deserved Christmas luncheon.

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